

Growing Together



Cultivating Spiritual Fruit

Active Faith

Contact: Deborah Rowe (rkrdtr@bellsouth.net)

Active Faith is comprised of volunteers responding to God's call to help those in need within our local community. God reveals to us the needs and we respond through our service and provision of needed goods. We work together as a group to support various programs, conduct community drives, and respond to emergency needs as a result of natural disasters or other situations. We meet in person two-three times a year for planning in addition to our active ministries. We rely on technology as our primary source of communication.

Adult Choir

Contact: Catherine Nance (catherine@wsmethodist.org)

Washington Street is known for its music ministries, not just as a way to reach the congregation but as a deeply spiritual experience for those who participate in choir. In the New Testament, we are encouraged, not just once, but twice (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) to sing God's praise with hymns and spiritual songs. Often, music can permeate our hearts and minds in ways that words cannot. Singing together is a wonderful way to enjoy deeply meaningful fellowship with other Christians. Also, it is just plain fun! We urge you to try choir! Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm and Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30 - Choir Room

Book Discussions

Contact: Christine Hait (chrishait@columbiasc.edu) & Andrea McAtee (acmcatee21@gmail.com)

The WSUMC Reading Club brings together members of our church who love to read. Together we share our interest in all kinds of reading—novels, memoirs, short stories, magazine articles, poetry—and we enjoy the pleasure of being with other avid readers to discuss what we have read. A Book Swap once a year gives us a chance to exchange books and talk to each other about the reading we have been doing outside of the reading club. We get to know each other not only as fellow readers but as friends. Please join us! Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Children's Choir

Contact: Catherine Nance (catherine@wsmethodist.org)

We will be coordinating with the leaders of children's church to provide time for music with the children. Occasionally, the children will be singing in the worship, either as a group or with the Sanctuary Choir. We will meet during Sunday service right after the Children's Moment and get out at 12pm.

Food with Friends

Contact: Carol Fowler (carolfowler2020@gmail.com)

Food with Friends small groups are 6 to 8 people who meet monthly and get to know each other in a casual setting while sharing a meal. The focus is on building friendships. Gatherings like this help us grow in our relationships—with God and each other—as names and faces become friends and prayer partners. Groups are encouraged to meet for at least 6 months, while the friendships can last forever. Gatherings can include meeting in group members' homes, at restaurants, or even at WSUMC. Some groups prefer backyard cookouts while others like potluck dinners and others have lunch or brunch at restaurants. We will assemble your group and help plan your first get-together, where you can decide the locations and formats for gathering in the months that follow. Choose one of four groups: weeknight supper, weekday lunch, Sunday lunch, or weekend supper. If a group gets too large, we will form another. We'll notify you when your group is to have its first meeting.

Game Group

Contact: Donna Faile (dfaile1126@gmail.com)

Playing games together is a great way to get to know each other while having fun. This group is for people of all ages who enjoy playing games. The group will meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the evening. Childcare will be available if needed, but we can also have a games table for children! Sign up to receive reminders about upcoming game nights.

Inclusive Theatre Company of SC

Contact: Larry Hembree (larryhembree1@gmail.com)

The Inclusive Theatre Company of South Carolina empowers young people to create original theatrical productions that celebrate artists of all abilities. Each year, we produce two fully staged productions at Washington Street featuring inclusive casts made up of both able-bodied performers and performers with special needs. Through our partnership with Washington Street, our participants find a welcoming space to rehearse, perform, and shine—on stage and beyond. We are looking for both participants and mentors. No prior experience is necessary in order to participate, only the motivation to have some FUN!

Kitchen Crew

Contact: Mary Lide (neaudl@aol.com)

If you love being in the kitchen and spending time with great people, join this group. We do set up, serving, and clean up providing Christian hospitality for members and guests for church dinners and receptions. We also have a lot of fun! You do not have to be available for every event.

Mahjong Group

Contact: Debra Schooler (debrajschooler@gmail.com)

We are hosting a Mahjong class to learn the game. We will meet on the 27th of September at the Church to start playing. At this meeting we will determine how often we will play and what time. Anyone is welcome to join us if you have some knowledge of the game. We will be sending out notices as our group develops.

Movie Discussions

Contact: Alston Lippert (aflippert@umcsc.org)

Movies are a way to connect with the culture and each other. They give us shared experiences to talk about. Our movie group meets once a month on the 4th Monday at 7:00 to discuss the movie of the month that we have all watched on our own. We will discuss how the movie pertains to the theme selected and how we see God and/or faith in the movie. The discussion lasts an hour and is held both in person in the Wesley room and online. This Fall we will discuss sports movies.

Partner with Methodist Student Network

Contact: Jad Taylor (jad@columbiawesley.org)

The Methodist Student Network (MSN) is a vibrant campus ministry that offers a warm and welcoming space for college-aged young adults to explore their faith and connect with one another. Our goal is to love as Christ loved through vibrant worship, impactful service, and meaningful friendships. We believe in the power of intergenerational relationships, so we welcome your partnership with MSN.

Sole Mates

Contact: Sara Wilcox (wilcoxs@mailbox.sc.edu)

Sole Mates is a Walking/Hiking Group for members and friends of Washington Street UMC. The group meets monthly on Saturdays around the Columbia area and occasionally in another part of the state. The group is open to persons of all abilities. A flyer with the schedule for the rest of this year is available from Sara Wilcox.

Tabitha's Table

Contact: Licia Jackson (jacksonliciad@gmail.com) & Ann Jessup (jessup.ann@gmail.com)

Hands to work, hearts to God – that Shaker blessing describes the work of Tabitha's Table, sewing group. We are named for Tabitha, mentioned in Acts as a wealthy woman who met a need to sew clothes for the poor.

We too seek to use our sewing skills to meet needs while sharing God's love and blessings with each other. This year we will focus on large creative projects that will make our church more beautiful. We also make repairs to linens and tapestries used in worship. With our focus on big projects, our meetings will be scheduled as needed, sometimes monthly, sometimes more often.

Tabitha's Table has a sewing room on the second floor. We plan to meet by Zoom in September to plan the first part of our year.

You do not have to know how to sew to be a part of this group. Please come to watch, learn, sew and share. We'd love to have you join us!

Washington Street Players

Contact: Larry Hembree (larryhembree1@gmail.com)

Are you age 12-112? Do you have fond memories of performing in your high school musical, a community theatre comedy or classic drama? Is there a spot on your bucket list that involves making people laugh, cry and think? Here's your big chance! Join Director Larry Hembree to help create both funny and poignant theatrical moments during Sunday services, for holidays and other special events. No experience is necessary. A brief orientation will take place in September for interested folks.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Contact: Ann Jessup (jessup.ann@gmail.com)

The Wednesday Night Small Group meets via zoom at 7:00 PM for one hour each week throughout the year. The group welcomes members from within and outside Washington Street and explores a wide variety of scripture topics using books by Christian authors. The group studies materials marking liturgical seasons such as Advent and Lent, and then engages with other topics of interest during the year. Another key component is a focus on prayer for individuals and families struggling with life challenges. Participants are always warmly welcomed to join for a topic, a season or a regular schedule with us.

Women in Faith Circles

Contact: Debra Schooler (debrajschooler@gmail.com)

The United Women in Faith is a sisterhood acting in faith to show God's love as we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Churches have Circles that meet monthly to study the Bible, to work on mission projects, and to learn about issues facing women and children in our state, our nation and our world. We come together in our Districts and States to meet, learn and fellowship together. We have the following circles at Washington Street:

Helping Hands Circle - Meets 1st Monday of each month at 6pm (Contact: Debra Schooler [debrajschooler@gmail.com])

Charles Pfeifer Circle - Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm (Contact: Mary Lide [neaudl@aol.com])

Circle 9 - Meets monthly during the evenings (Contact: Elizabeath Aravena [elizabeth.aravena@gmail.com] or Andrea McAtee [acmcatee21@gmail.com])

Toni White Circle - Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30pm (Contact: MJ Fox [mjfoxad@aol.com])

Diana Westerkam Circle - Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 10:00am (Contact: Betty Cribb [bacribbs2@gmail.com])

Young Professionals (YoPro)

Contact: Kathy James (kljames@umcsc.org)

Washington Street's young adult group (ages 25-45) meets monthly for a game night and pizza with occasional additional meetings for activities like Bible trivia, service projects, lunch-and-learn conversations, and more. All are welcome!

Youth Group

Contact: Kathy James (kljames@umcsc.org)

Young people in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in Sunday youth group. The group meets in the Youth Room on the 3rd floor, twice a month, usually on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Regular meeting time will be 4-6 pm. Activities include things like planning the Fall Festival, Karaoke night, and a retreat at Asbury Hills. Sign up with a parent if you want to be on the group text and receive reminders about upcoming gatherings.

Find a group that feels right for you?
Sign-up with the QR code below!

